The Member then stated that, under the Standing Orders of Government, ryots were being permitted to collect green manure and agricultural implements from the reserves, etc., but they had no information as to the forest areas in respect of which they might exercise those concessions. The Member, therefore, suggested that a list of such areas with their boundaries clearly specified might be annually published in the Gazette and also hung up at the watch stations.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the free pass system for the removal of timber and firewood from registered holdings, a Committee has, as you know, been appointed at the instance of Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, Member, Legislative Council. From your speech I gather that you do not seem to have confidence in that Committee. All that I can say is that that Committee consists of four non-official gentlemen who have been elected by the Legislative Council.

Member.—I took objection only to the manner of working of the Committee. I merely wanted that the Committee should work properly.

Dewan.—I do not find any reason why that Committee should not work properly. It is my belief that it will work very well. I shall send all your suggestions for the consideration of the Committee.

In regard to the abolition of the Thuckalai Depôt, I am unable to say why it was abolished, as you have not given me previous notice of your representation on the mater.

Your suggestion that a list of forest reserves, etc., available for the removal of manure leaves and agricultural implements may be published every year in the Gazette and hung up at the various watch stations is good and I shall ask the Conservator to adopt it.

26. Modifications in the Forest Rules and Regulations affecting cardamom ryots.

Mr. S. P. Sultan Ahamad Badrudin Rowther (Member, Devicolam Taluk) spoke about the modifications to be made in the Forest Regulation and Rules so far as they affected the cardamom ryots. He said that, in pursuance of the encouragement given by Dewan Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C. I. E. for the development of the cardamom industry, many people had invested large sums of money on that industry, but that they now experienced considerable hardship on account of the working of the Forest Regulation and the Rules issued thereunder by the subordinates of the Forest Department. In support of his statement, the Member said that, although the Government had ordered the issue of free licenses to the owners of cardamom gardens for the grazing of their cattle, the forest officers refused to grant such licenses. Again, whenever the ryots made use of the twigs, *eta* grass, etc., within their registered holdings, the forest officers subjected them to criminal prosecution. The Member next said that no useful purpose would be served by retaining the grass hills on the High Ranges as forest reserves, and that on the other hand it would be very beneficial to the ryots and profitable to the Government if they were assigned to the ryots for constructing buildings, etc. In conclusion, the Member stated that the above grievances were represented to the Dewan while he was touring in the High Ranges in May 1921 and 1922, but that the ryots were extremely disappointed by the orders of the Government contained in G. O. Dis. No. 1355 of 21/Revenue, dated the 20th September, 1921, as also the one dated the 2nd August, 1922. He, therefore, prayed that the grievances mentioned by him might be redressed and suggested that a committee might be appointed to consider the question of disafforesting the Cardamom Hills Reserve.

Dewan's reply.—Government have already issued orders for the grant of free licenses for grazing Travancore cattle in reserves. Orders have also been issued for the assignment of lands within the Cardamom Hills Reserve for the construction of buildings for stores. The disafforestation of the Cardamom Hills Reserve as a whole cannot be allowed. Government do not consider the appointment of a committee, as suggested by you, to be necessary.

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